

Madeleine Smith-Spanier

Madeleine Smith-Spanier took up her duties as Database Manager of the IAU in October 2013.

She attended Ithaca College in the Division of Interdisciplinary and International Studies. She is the holder of a Bachelor's Degree (BA) with a Major in International and Intercultural Communication and a Minor in French. She also studied French language and culture intensively at the Institute for the International Education of Students (IES) in Paris, France.

As the Database Manager for the International Astronomical Union, Madeleine is in charge of maintaining and updating the database of the IAU and facilitating communications for the Union's more than 13,000 members. She is also responsible for maintaining the webpages in tandem with her colleagues at ESO. She takes care of internal elections, publications administration with Cambridge and works on the membership application process as well as assisting with annual Officer and EC meetings and triennial General Assembly meeting preparations.

Previously, her work experience ranged from sales and customer relations to event planning as well as working on a public relations campaign for the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and Arts in upstate NY. She also spent a year working for the French government's Ministère de l'Education Nationale serving as a cultural ambassador bringing the English language and American culture to French children and adolescents.

Her strengths include French language, communications and organizing data in a systematic way. She enjoys learning about new cultures and languages and brings her interdisciplinary skills to the table, recognizing the importance of developing rich, nuanced understandings of increasingly multicultural and technologically connected international environments.